
City of Reading City Council

Regular Meeting Monday, December 17, 2007

A regular meeting of City Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

Vaughn D. Spencer, President of Council, called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Rev. Angelo Sarno of New Creations Community Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Spencer
Councilor Fuhs, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Sterner, District 3
Councilor Marmarou, District 4
Councilor Baez, District 5
Councilor Waltman, District 6

Managing Director L. Churchill
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Clerk L Kelleher

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no proclamations issued at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Spencer announced that one citizen was registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. He inquired if Council wished to suspend the public speaking rules to allow this citizen to address Council at this point in the meeting. As no one objected, the public speaking rules were suspended.

Council President Spencer reminded the citizen that as he is speaking on general matters he needs to limit his comments to three minutes.

Donald Dahms, of N. 9th Street, described his dissatisfaction with the new housing permit process. He stated that the Codes Department does not accept the \$50 per unit payment until the paperwork submitted is complete and accepted.

Managing Director Churchill explained the need for all rental properties to have proper zoning in place. He described the new housing permit process which will help all rental properties come into compliance with all City ordinances.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council President Spencer asked Council to consider the agenda for this meeting. He reminded Council that the Administration is withdrawing the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance ready for enactment this evening and introducing an amendment that will allow firehouses in areas zoned R-PO, C-H, M-C, and H-M by conditional use. He also added that approval of the agenda will also approve the award of contract listed under the consent agenda heading.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the agenda as amended and the award of contract listed under the consent agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Award of Contract- to KCBA, Eight East Broad Street, Hatfield, PA, 19440, at a total contract price of \$232,135, for design services for the new Southwest Fire Station. **(Purchasing Coordinator)**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Managing Director Churchill highlighted the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

- Updates on home improvement programs administered by NHS
- Street lighting projects on the East Bank and Hancock Blvd
- Activation of a traffic signal at Museum Rd and Parkside Dr
- Mayor's "Kids for a Clean City" litter control project
- Downtown New Year's Eve celebration

Councilor Sterner noted that he has heard similar complaints about the new housing permit process by other owners of rental properties. Managing Director Churchill replied that Codes staff is sympathetic to the perceived hardships caused by the new Housing Permit Ordinance. He stated that staff is working with owners of rental properties to help close gaps where applicable.

Councilor Marmarou inquired about the extension of the leaf collection program. Managing Director Churchill noted that the dry fall season delayed the falling of leaves whereby the leaf collection program was extended for a two week period. This extended period was interrupted by several bouts of winter weather which caused the need for leaf collection trucks to be outfitted for snow and ice removal. He promised that the Public Works Department would do their best to collect falling leaves. He reminded all citizens that bagging leaves is a great help to Public Works staff.

Councilor Waltman extended thanks from the residents of the East Bank for the installation of street lights.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

City Auditor Dave Cituk highlighted the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

- Update on the 2007 Admissions Tax
- Report on the City's expenses pertaining to the Reading Public Library

Councilor Fuhs was called away from the Council meeting to attend to an emergency situation.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Bill No. 76-2007 - amending the City of Reading Zoning Ordinance to permit Fire Houses by Special Exception in R-PO (Residential Professional-Office), C-H (Commercial Highway), M-C (Manufacturing Commercial) and H-M (Heavy Manufacturing) Zoning Districts. ***(Solicitor/Zoning Administration/Planning) Introduced at the 10/22/07 meeting of Council; tabled pending the holding of a public hearing and expiration of comment period.***

Managing Director Churchill announced that the Administration is withdrawing this Ordinance.

Bill No. 85-2007 - amending the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading by adding to Chapter 10, Health and Safety, a Health and Safety Inspection Ordinance, which will require the inspection of all properties within the City of Reading after any sale or transfer of property.

Introduced at the 11/26/07 meeting of Council.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to table Bill 85-2007.

Bill 85-2007 was tabled by the following vote:

Yea: Baez, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer President – 6.

Nay: None – 0.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Spencer read the following Ordinance into the record:

Ordinance- amending the City of Reading Zoning Ordinance to permit firehouses by conditional use in R-PO, C-H, M-C, and H-M zoning districts **(City Council)**

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 166-2007 - authorizing the assumption of outstanding loan balance for the Medical Arts Building **(Community Development/Solicitor)**

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to table Resolution 166-2007.

Resolution 166-2007 was tabled by the following vote:

Yea: Baez, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer President – 6.

Nay: None – 0.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Sterner encouraged all citizens to visit the Hillside Christmas light display.

Councilor Sterner thanked the Administration, City Council, and Council staff for working to move the City forward. He noted the dedication of all involved parties.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that this is the last Council meeting for her first term of office. She noted the great effort of the Reading community to get Reading back on track.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz encouraged all citizens to attend the downtown New Year's Eve celebration.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the Reading Fire Department for responding to a Sunday fire on Cotton Street.

Councilor Marmarou expressed thanks for the work of all Administrative and Council staff for their work during 2007.

Councilor Baez thanked the Administration, Council, Council staff and all District 5 residents for their continuing support.

Councilor Waltman encouraged all citizens to enjoy past and present family. He also encouraged all residents to enjoy the home we call Reading over the holiday season.

Council President Spencer expressed his thanks to City Council, the Administration, and all City employees who serve Reading citizens every day. He also expressed appreciation for the hard work of the Solicitor, his legal staff and City Council staff. On behalf of Council, he wished all residents a safe, happy, and healthy new year.

Council President Spencer reminded all of the upcoming Council meeting schedule

Councilor Waltman moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

Linda Kelleher
City Clerk

